

Lincoln's Hopes for the Negro

IN HIS OWN WORDS



"What I would most desire would be the separation of the white and black races."

(Spoken at Springfield, Illinois, July 17, 1858), *Abraham Lincoln Complete Works*, edited by Nicolay and Hay, published by The Century Company, 1894, Volume I, page 273.

"I will say, then, that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races—that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes,—nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which will ever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together, there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

(Spoken in sixth joint debate with Senator Douglas at Quincy, Illinois, October 13, 1858), *Abraham Lincoln Complete Works*, edited by Nicolay and Hay, The Century Company, 1894, pages 369, 370, 457 and 458; also at Charleston, Illinois, September 18, 1858, in fourth debate with Douglas.

"Why . . . should the people of your race be colonized, and where? Why should they leave this country? This is, perhaps, the first question for proper consideration. You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races. Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss, but this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both, as I think your race suffer very greatly, many of them by living among us, while ours suffer from your presence. In a word we suffer on each side. If this be admitted, it affords a reason at least why we should be separated."

"It is better for both, therefore, to be separated."

(Spoken to a committee of colored men at the White House, July 14, 1862). *The New York Daily Tribune*, August 15, 1862, page 1; *New York Semi-Weekly Times*, August 15, 1862, page 5.

CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF AMERICA

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- ☐ Please send me more information on Lincoln's plans for settling the American Negro Problem.
- ☐ I would also like to receive literature on the basic reasons for social separation of whites and negroes.

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